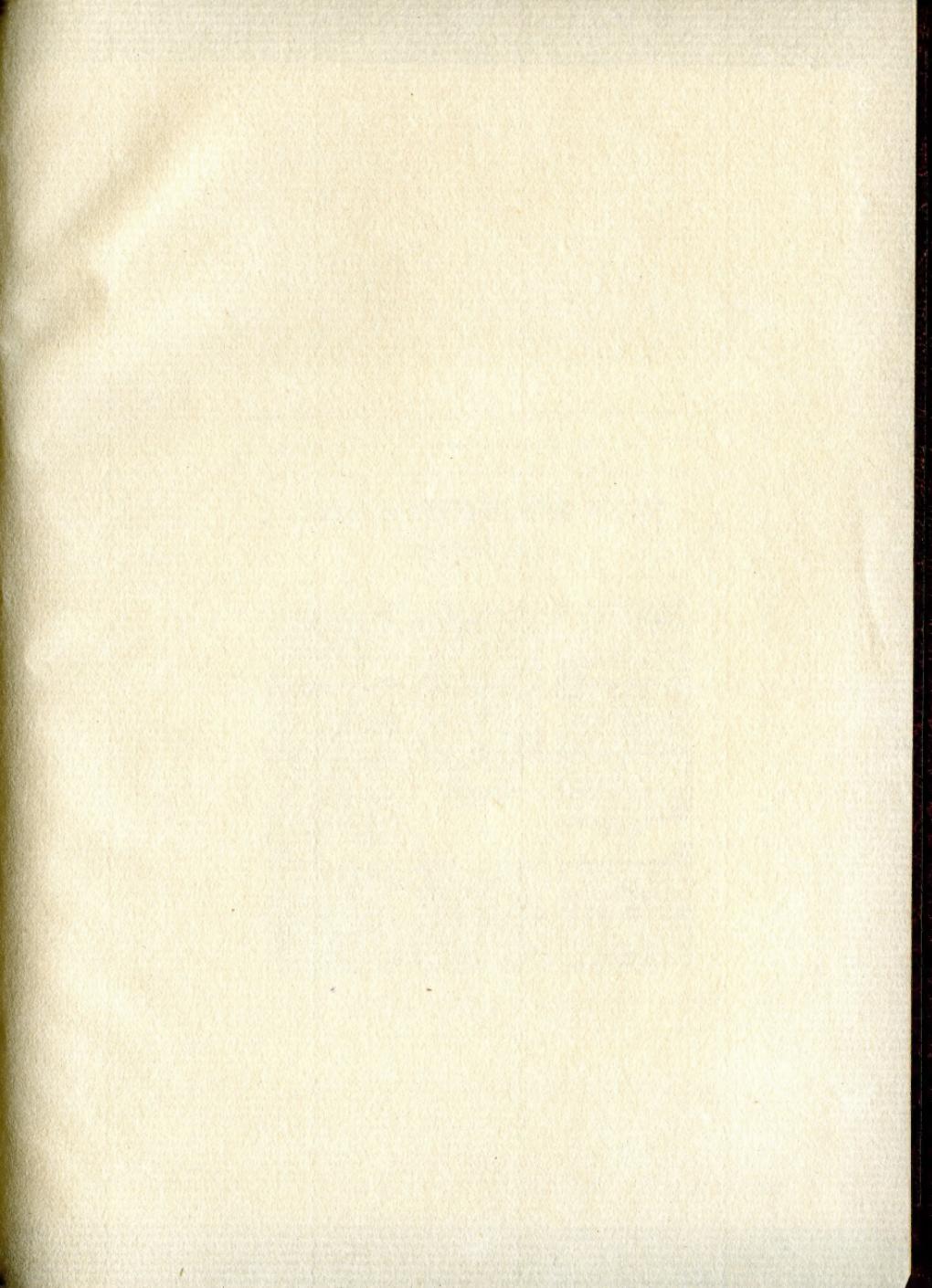
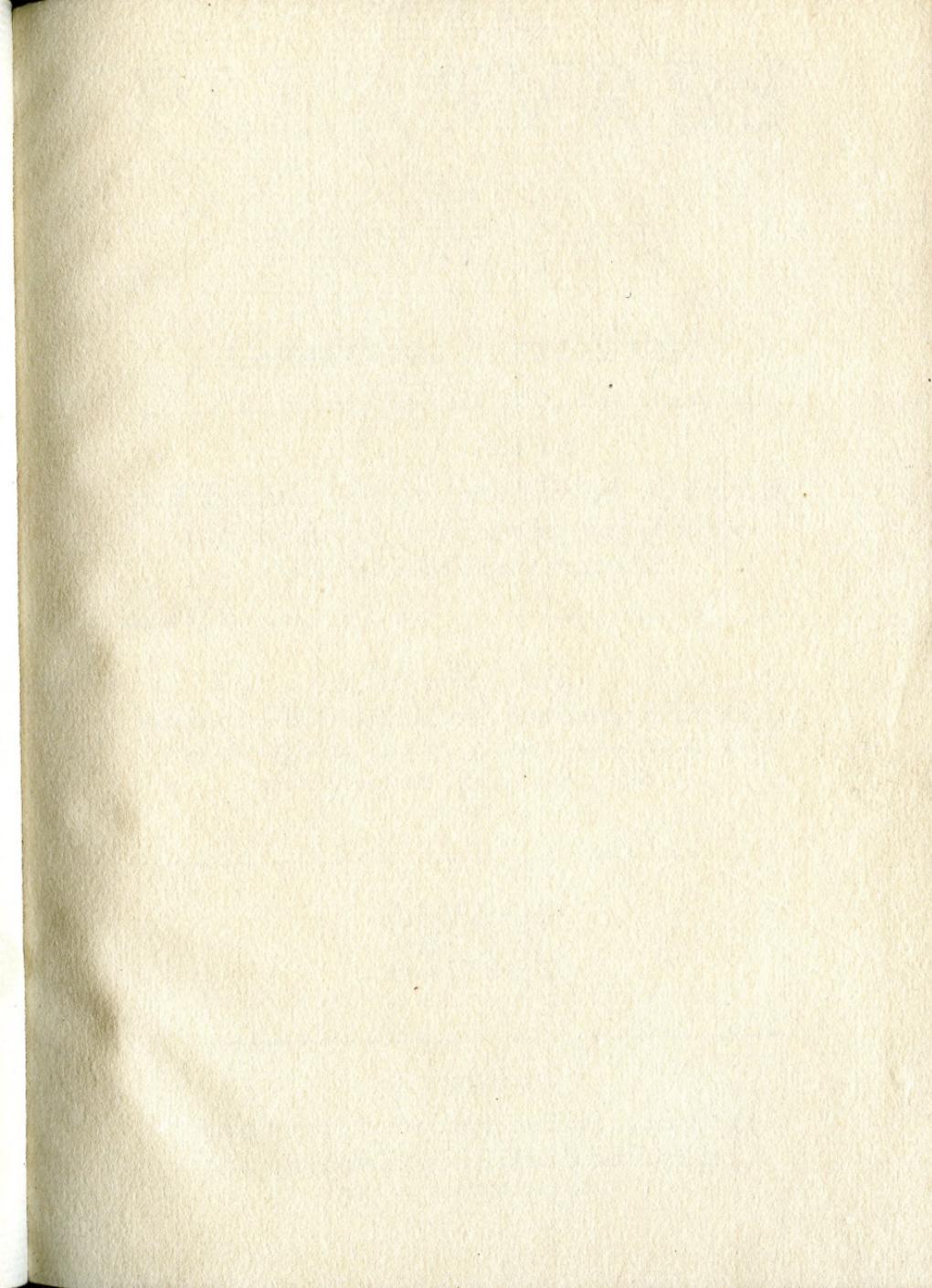


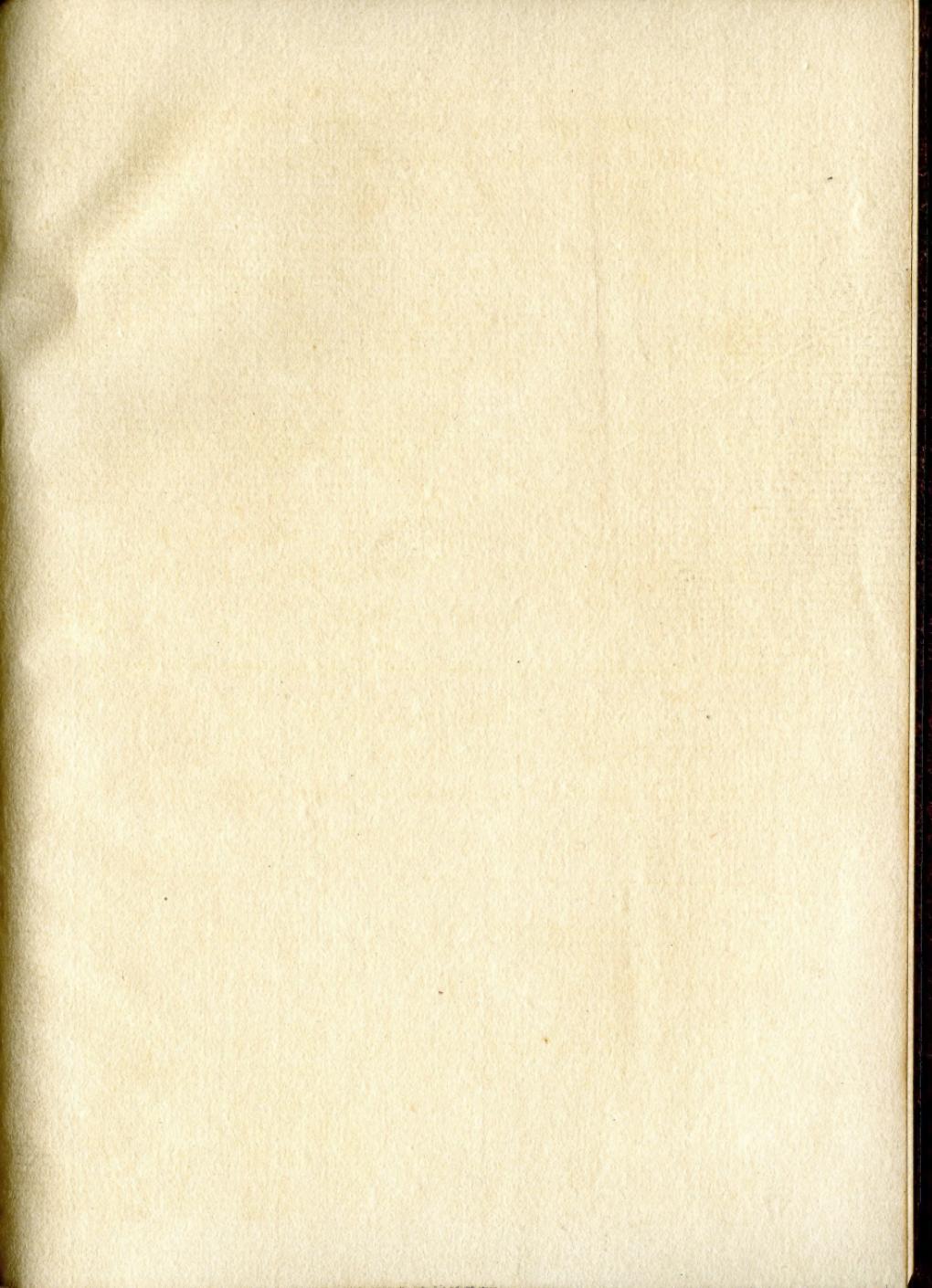
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1615







THE PLEASVRES

OF
PRINCES,
OR

Good mens Recreations:

CONTAINING

A Discourse of the generall Art of Fishing
with the Angle, or otherwise. and of all the
hidden secrets belonging thereunto.

TOGETHER

With the Choyce, Ordering, Breeding, and Dyetting
of the fighting Cocke. Being a worke neuer in
that nature handled by any former

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TOGETHER

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to assist students of the English language.



London:

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the author at his Shop in St. Dunstan's Church-
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THE
PLEASVRES
of Princes.

CHAP. I.

Of Angling, the Vertue, Vse, and Antiquitie.



Ince Pleasure is a rapture, or power in this last age, stolne into the hearts of men, and there lodged vp with such a carefull guarde and attendance, that nothing is more supreame, or ruleth with greater strength in their affections, and since all are now become the sonnes of Pleasure, and every god is measured by the delight it produceth: what worke unto men can be more thankefull then the discourse of that pleasure which is most comely, most honest, and giueth the most libertie to divine meditation, and that without all question is the Art of Angling, which having ever bene most hurtlesly necessary, hath beene the sport or recreation of Gods Saints, of most holy Fathers, and of many worthy and reverend Deuines, both dead and at this time breathing.

The Art of Angling.

The *use* of
Angling, and
the *venue*.

For the use thercol (in its owne true and vnabused nature) carrieth in it neither covetousnesse, deceipt, nor anger, the three maine spirits which (ever in some ill measure) ruleth in all other pastimes: neither are they alene predominant without the attendance of their several hant-maids, as Theft, Blasphemy or Bloudshed: for in Dice-play, Cardes, Bowles, or any sport where money is the goale to which mens mindes are directed, what can mans auarice there be accounted, other then a familiar robbery, each seeking by deceipt to couzen and spoyle other of that blisse of meanes which God had bestowed to support them and their families? And as in every contention there must be a betterhod or super-ercelling, so in this, when the weaker deceipt is deprived his expectation, how doth it then fall into curses, oathes, and suries, such as would make Vertue tremble with the imagination? But in this Art of Angling there is no such euill, no such sinnesfull violence, for the greatest thing it coveteth is, for much labour a little Fish, hardly so much as will suffice Nature in a reasonable stomacke: for the Angler must intice, not command his reward, and that which is worthy millions to his contentment, another may buy for a groate in the Market. His deceipt worketh not vpon men but vpon those Creatures whom it is lawfull to beguile for our honest recreations or needfull uses, and for all rage and surie it must be so great a stranger to this ciuill pastime, that if it come but within view or speculation thereof, it is no more to be esteemed a Pleasure, for every proper god thereof in the very instant faileth, shewing vnto all men that will vndergoe any delight therein that it was first invented, taught, and shall for ever be maintained by Patience onely. And yet I may not say onely Patience, for her other three Sisters haue likewise a commaunding power in this exercise, for Justice directeth and appointeth out those places where men may with libertie use their sport, and neither doe iniurie to their neighbours, nor incure the censure of incivilitie. Temperance layeth downe the

the measure of the action, and moderateth desire in such god proportion that no excelle is found in the overflow of their affections. Lastly, Fortitude unableth the minde to undergoe the trauell and exchange of weathers with a healthfull ease, and not to dispayze with a little expence of tyme, but to persevere with a constant imagination in the end to obtaine both pleasure and satisfaction.

Now for the Antiquitie thereof (for all pleasures, like Gentry, are held to be most excellent which is most auncient) it is by some writers sayd to be found out by Ducas-
lion, and Palia his wife, after the generall flood: others write it was the inuention of Saturne, after the peace con-
cluded betwixt him and his brother Tytan: and others,
that it came from Bellus the son of Nunrod, who first in-
uented all holy and vertuous recreations: and all these
though they favour of fiction, yet they differ not from
truth, for it is most certaine that both Ducaslion, Saturne,
and Bellus, are taken for figures of Noah, and his family,
and the inuention of the Art of Angling is truly sayd to
come from the sonnes of Seth, of which Noah was most
principall. Thus you see it is good, as haing no coherence
with euill, worthy of vse: in as much as it is mixt with a
delightfull profit: and most auncient, as being the recrea-
tion of the first Patriarkes, wherefore now I will pro-
cede to the Art it selfe, and the meanes to attaine it.

The antiquitie
of Angling.

CHAP. II.

Of the Angle-rodde, Lines, Corkes, Hookes, and other Tooles for Angling.



¶ as much as the first ground-worke or sub-
stance of this Art of Angling consisteth in
the implements belonging thereunto, and that
except a man be possesse of them which are
most exact, nimble, or necessary for the same,

his labour is vaine, and to little or no purpose employed, and for as much as the Angle-rodde is the greatest, principalest, and sole director of all other Tymes belonging therunto, I thinke it not amisse to begin with the choyce and order thereof, according to the opinions of the best noted Anglers, which either haue bene in times past or are at this day living.

Of the Angle-
rodde.

For the choyce then of your Angle-rodde, you shall understand that some Anglers are of opinion, that the best should be composed of two pieces, a maine body, and a small plynant toppe. The maine body would be of a fine growne ground-witchen, or a ground-Elme, of at least nine or ten foote in length, straight, smooth, without knots, and not much differing, at eyther end in one substance or thickenesse. It would be gathered at the fall of the Lease, neare, or about All-halftide, and laid by in some dry place, where it may lye straight, and of it selfe season: for to beake them in the fire (as many doe) when they are greene, is not so god, but after they be well dryed and seasoned of themselves, then to beake them in the fire, and set them so straight and even that an arrow may not sur-passe them, is excellent: then you may take off the vpper rinde, and what with the smoake, and their owne age, their colour will be so darke that they will gine no reflect into the water (whitch is a principall obseruation.) Your rodde being made thus straight and seasoned, you shall at the vpper end thereof, with an Augure or a hot Iron, but a hot Iron is the better, burne a hole, about three inches deepe, and of a fingers widenesse: then on the outside of the Rodde, from the toppe of the hole to the bottome, you shall warpe it about eyther with strong double twisted thred well warded or pitcht, or with shoemakers thred many times doubled, and well waxed with shoemakers ware, and the last end fastened vnder the last foulds, so close and sure that it may by no meanes loose for: this will keepe the Rodde from cleaving or breaking in that place where the hollownesse was made.

The

The stocke being thus made, you shall into the hole fire the toppe, which would be a very small ground Hasell, growing from the earth upward, very smooth and straight, which would be cut at the latter end of the yere, and lye in season all the Winter, the upper rinde being by no meanes taken off, neither the rodde put into the fire at all, but onely seasoned in a drye place, where it may lye straight, and haue both winde and some ayre of the fire to come to it. This toppe must be pliant and bending, yet of such a sufficient strength that it will not breake with any reasonable ierke, but as it is any way bowed so to returne againe to the former straightnesse. This top-wand would be of a yarde and a halfe, or an elle at least in length, & at the smallest end thereof would be fastned with a warp of hayze, a strong loope of hayze, about an inch long, to which you may at pleasure fasten your fishing lins: and the bigger end of the top must be thrust into the socket of the stocke, and made so fast that it may not loosen nor shake out with any shaking, or other reasonable violence. And albe the Witchen or ground-Elme are accounted the best to frame these maine stocks of, yet I haue seene very good stockes made both of Hallow, Beech, or Poplar: for the lighter your Rod is (so it be strong) it is so much the better and more for the easse of him that useth it.

There be other approued god Anglers which allow onely that Rodde which is composed all of one entire piece, and thinke them stronger, nimbler, and lesse casuall, and these Roddes they would haue chosen of an excellent straight and well growne ground-Hasell, being from the bottome to the toppe finely rubb-growne, the upper end thereof being small, pliant, and bending. This Rodde would be gathered at the fall of the Leafe, when the leaues are some faine and some sticking: as soone as you haue cut them vp, you shall cut away the leaues and small sprigs, yet not so neare that you hurt the Barke (for that by no meanes must be stirred, as well for the strength of the Rodde, as for the colour, which being darke will not

Of the top of
the Angle-
rod.

The Angle-
rod of one
piece.

not so sone catch the eye of the Fish, and offend them.) Then bringing your rods home, you shall lay them upon a leuell flore, and pressing them downe with waights, to keepe them from warping, let them lye and season all the Winter: then in the Spring-time take them vp, soz your purpose, which is onely to make the knots smooth, and to fire your loape of hayre to the upper end. Now of these roddes the longest is the best, so it be straight and well growne, soz most commonly they are so short that they will serue to fish with but in little narrow Brookes, or else in a Boat in great waters.

The Angle-
rod of many
pieces.

There be other Anglers, and many of the best and approvedst judgements, which allow the Angle-rod of many pieces: as those which are made of Cane, each piece exceeding another one degree, in such even proportion that being fised and thrust one within another they will shew as one even and most straight rush-growne body, without any crookednesse or other outward euill fauourednesse: these pieces would not be above fours score in length a piece, and thre such pieces, which make twelue score, are sufficient for the stocke of the Rodde, besides the toppe: now for those ends which are the sockets, into which you fise the other Canes, you shali hope them about with fine plates of Brasse, an inch and an halse broad, well sodered, and smoothly filed, which will keepe the Cane from cleaving: and for the toppe of this Rodde, the round Whalebone is thought the best, and surely in my conceit so it is, both for this or any other rodde whatsoeuer, for it is tough, strong, and most plyant: these Roddes most commonly are made to haue the small Canes thrust downe into the wide Canes, so that a man may walke with them as with a stafte, and when he pleaseth to draw them forth, and use them as occasion shall be offered: the onely exception which is taken at these kinde of Roddes, is the bright colour of the Cane, which reflecting into the water, oft times scarreth the Fish, and makes them afraid to bite. But if you fish in deepe and thicks waters, there is

is no such matter, for the shadow of the Rodde is not discerned through the Sunne, onely in shalow and cleare Brookes it is a little hinderance, and therefore he which is a Master in this Art will Umer and darken the Rodde, by rubbing it ouer a gentle fire with a little Capons-grease, and browne of Spaine, mixt together.

Now for your Lines, you shall understand that they are to be made of the strongest, longest, and best growne Horse hayze that can be got, not that which groweth on his Maine, nor vpon the vpper part or setting on of his tayle, but that which groweth from the middle and inmost part of his docke, and so extendeth it selfe downe to the ground, being the biggest and strongest hayzes about the Horse: neither are these hayzes to be gathered from poore, leane, and diseased Jades of little price or value, but from the fattest, soundest, and proudest Horse you can finde, for the best Horse hath euer the best hayze, neither would your hayzes be gathered from Pagges, Mares, or Geldings, but from Stone-Horses onely, of which the blacke hayze is the worst, the white or gray best, and other colours indifferent: those Lines which you make for small Fish, as Gudgeon, Witing, or Penow, would be composed of thre hayzes: those which you make for Pearch, or Trout, would be of five hayzes: and those for the Chub or Barbell, would be of seauen: to those of thre hayzes you shall adde one thred of silke: to those of five two threds of silke: and to those of seauen three threds of silke: you shall twist you hayzes neither too hard nor too slacke, but euен so as they may twinde and couch close one within another and no more, without eyther snarling or gaping one from another: the ends you shall fasten together with a Fibers knot, which is your ordinary fast knot, soulded fourre times about, both vnder and aboue, for this will not lose in the water, but being drawne close together will continue when all other knots will faile, for a hayze being smoth and stiffe, will yeld and goe backe if it be not artificially drawne together:

your ordinary Line would be betwene thre and foure fadome in length, yet, for as much as there is diversities in the length of Rods, in the depth of waters, and in the places of standing to Angle in, it shall be good to haue Lines of divers lengths, and to take those which shall be fittest for your purpose.

The colouring
of Lines.

These Lines, though the naturall hayres, being white or gray, be not much offensive, yet it shall not be amisse to colour them according to the seasons of the yere, for so they will least scare the Fish, and sonest intise them to bite with most greedinelle: and of colours the best is the Water-gréene, which you shall make after this manner: Take a pottell of Alome water, and put thereunto a great handfull of Marigolds, & let them boyle well till a yellow skumme rise vpon the water, then take halfe a pound of gréene Coperas, and as much Verdigrease, beaten to fine pouder, and put it with the hayre into the water, and so let it boyle againe a pretty space, and then set it by to cole for halfe a day: then take out your hayre, and lay it where it may dry, and you shall see it of a delicate gréene colour, which indeed is the best Watergréene that may be. This colour is excellent to Angle with in all clere waters where the Line lyeth plaine and most discouered, and will continue from the beginning of the Sping to the beginning of Winter. Now if you will haue your Lines of a yellow colour, you shall boyle your hayre in Allome water, mixt only with Marigolds, & a handful of Turmeryccke: but if you cannot get Turmeryccke, then you shall stampe so much of gréene Walnut leaues, and mire it with the water, and steep your hayre therein twenty and foure houres at least. Lines of this colour are good to Angle with in waters that are clere, yet full of weeds, sedge, and such like, for it is not unlike to the stalkes of these weeds, and it will well continue to Angle with all the first part of the Winter, as from before Michaelmas till after Christmas.

If you will haue your Lines of a Russet colour, you shall

shall take a quarte of Alome-water, and as much strong Lye, then put thereto a handfull of sote, and as much browne of Spaine, and after it hath boyled an houre or two, set it by to coole, and when it is colde steepe your hayre therein a day and a night, and then hang it vp to drye: these coloured Lines are god to Angle with in all deepe waters, whether they be Riuers or standing Pooles, as Ponds, and such like, and are most in use from Christ-mas till after Easter. Now if you will haue your Lines of a Browne or Dusky colour, you shall take a pound of Umber, and halfe so much Sote, and seeth it in a pottle of Ale a god space, then when it is cold steepe your hayres therein a day and a night, and then hang them vp to drye, and the colour will be perfect, yet euer the darker you would haue it, the more Umber put into it: these Lines are excellent to Angle with in waters that are blacke, deepe, and muddy, be they eyther running or standing wa-ters, and will continue all seasons of the yere whatso-
ever, onely in bright waters they are too blacke, and cast too large a shadow. Lastly, if you would haue your Lines of a tawny colour (although in the water it sheweth al-most all one with the other darker colours) you shall take Lime and Water, and mixe it together, and steepe your hayre therein halfe a day, and then take it forth and steepe it double so long time in Tanners ouze, and then hang it vp to drye, and the colour will be perfect: these Lines are best to Angle with in morish and heathy waters, which are of a reddish colour, and will serue for that pur-pose all seasons of the yere: if with this colour, or the gréene, you mixe a siluer thred it will not be amisse, and with the other colours a golde thred it is god also: and note, that at each end of your Line you make a loope, the one to fasten to the topps of your Rodde, being the lar-
ger, and the other to fasten your hooke-Line vnto, which would be somewhat lesser.

After your Lines are made, you shall make your Corks Of the Corks in this manner: take of the best and thickest Corke you

can get, and with a fine Raze or hauing pared it smooth on the outside, cut it into the fashyon of a long Katherine Pierre, bigge and round at the one end, and long and slender at the other, and according to the strength of your Line, so make your worke bigger or lesser, as for a Line of thre hayres, a Corkie of an inch and a halfe in length, and as much in compasse in the thickest part is bigge enough: and for a Line of more hayres, a Corkie of more length, and compasse will become it: and inded to speake truly for as much as it serueth, but onely for a direction to your eye to know when the fish byteth, & when you shall strike, the lesser your Corkie is, the better it is, and breedeth lesse affright in the water, in so much that many Anglers will fish without any Corkie, with a bare quill onely, but is not so certayne, nor giueth so sure direction as the Corkie doth. After you haue shaped your Corkie, you shall with a hot Iron boare a hole, long-wise, through the middest thereof, and into that hole thrust a quill, and through the quill draw your Line, and fasten them both together with a wedge of the hard end of the Goose feather: and note that both your quill and your wedge be white, for that breedeth least offence on the water, then place the smaller end of your Corkie downe towards your hooke, and the bigger end towards your rod, that the smaller end, sinking downe with the hooke, the bigger may floate aloft and beare the quill upward, whiche when at any time, you see puld downe into the water, then you may safely strike, for it is an assured signe that the fish hath bitten. There be other Anglers whiche make their Corkes in the fashyon of a Nun-gigge, small at both endes, and bigge in the middest, and it is not much to be disliked, onely it is a little sooner apt to sink, and you may thereby strike before the fish haue fully bitten. Others shape their Corkes in the fashyon of a whrtle, or of a little Apple, round, flattish of both sides, and this Corkie is best to angle for the greatest fishes, because it being not so apt sink, will floate till the hooke be fastened,

fastened, and that the fish beginneth to shut away with the bayte, so that a man then striking can seldom or never loose his labour.

Next to your Corkes is your hooches, and they be of divers shapnes and fashions, some bigge, some little, some betweene both, according to the fish at which you angle, the best substance wherof to make them, is either old Spanish Pædles, or else strong Wyer drawne as neare as may be to that hight of temper, which being nealed and alayde in the fire, you may bend and bow at your pleasure. Now for the best softning of your wyze, if you make your hooches of old Pædles, you shall neede but to hold them in the blaze of a Candle till they be red hot, and then let them coole of themselves, and they will be soft, and pliyant enough, but if you make your hooches of strong Spanish Wyer, you shall roule it round, and then lay it vpon burning Char-coales, turning it vp and downe till it be all red hot in every place, then let it gently coole of it selfe, and it will be soft enough. Now for the making of your hooches, I advise you to goe to such as are the best reputed for making of them, and buy of all sorts of hooches from the biggest to the least, that is to say, from that which taketh the Loach, to that which taketh the Salmon, and let them ly before you for examples: then looke of what sort of hooches you intend to make, and with a fine file, first make the poynct of your hooke, which would neyther be too sharpe, for then it will catch hold of every thing, when it shold not, nor too blunt, least it fayle to take hold when there is occasion: therefore in that obserue a meane, making it lesse sharpe then a fine Pædle, and more sharpe then a small pime. When you haue madethe poynct then with a thinnne knife of a very good edge, you shall cut out and raise vp the beard which you shall make greater or lesse, according to the bignesse of the hooke, and the strength of the Wyer: for you must by no meanes cut the beard so deepe, that thereby you weaken the hooke, but it must be as strong in that place as any other. When

Of Angle
hooches.

the poyn and beard is made, you shall with a fine payze of round Plyers turne and compasse the hooke about, making it round, circular-wise, being somewhat more then a semicircle, and ener obserue that the rounder the compasse or bought commeth in, that so much the better proportioned the hooke is. This done, you shall leaue as much as you thinkie convenient for the hanke, and then cut it off from the rest of the Wyer: which done, you shall beate the end downe flat, and somewhat broader then the rest, and so pollish and smoothe it all ouer, then heating it redde hot in a little panne of Charcoales put it sodainly into the water, and quench it, which will bring your hooke to a full strength and hardnesse. Thus you see how to make hookes of all sizes and shapes, whether they be single or double hookes, for, although the quantities alter, yet the shapes doe not, and the double hookes which is, the Pike-hooke is no other, but two single hookes all of one Wyer, turned contrarie wayes: and this double hooke must not haue the line firt unto it, but a strong Wyer ioyned unto it of thre inches long, well wound about and warped with a smaller Wyer: then to it another Wyer of the same length, as if they were two severall linkes ioyned together, and then the line fird to the last link, and therfore are called armed hookes, for they defend the line from shearing or cutting in pieces with the teeth of the Pyke.

Now for your single hookes you shall thus fird them to your lines, take a length of your twisted hayres, containing that number which is fit for the hooke, and having made a strong loape at the one end, lay the other end where is no bought upon the inside of your hooke, thin with a strong red silke, either single or double, according to the bignesse of the hooke being well wared, whippe and warp the hooke round about as thicke, close, and straight as may be, in such sort as you see men whip their bow-strings, and in the same manner make the ends of your silke fast: then with a payze of Sizers cut the silke

and

and hayres off close by the hooke, and you may be sur that they will not loose one from another with any reasonable violence. After your hooke is thus fastened to your line, you shall then plunbe your line, whiche is to fise certaine pieces of Lead, according to the bignesse of your line about it, some being in length a quarter of an inch, some halfe an inch, some bigger, and some lesse, according to the waight of your hooke, and bignesse of your Cork, for these plumets are but onely to carry downe your hooke, and lay it in the bottome, neyther being so heauie to make the Corke sincke, nor so light as not with the small-est touch to make the Corke dip into the water: you shall understand that your first plumet would be twelue or fourteene inches from the hooke, the rest not aboue one inch distance one from another, not being aboue five or seauen at the most, albe some anglers vse nine, and some more, as their fancies rules them. There is in plumbing of lines three severall fashions of plumets vised, as one long, another square, and the third in a Diamond forme, but all tending to one end, haue but one vse, and the long ones are accounted the best, so that they be neatly set to, and the ends smoothe and close laid downe, so that they tangle not the line by catching hold vpon weedes, or other trash in the bottome of the water.

Thus haue you scene the best choyle of Rods, Lines, Corkes, and Hookes, and how to fise and couple them altogether to doe their severall offices, it now resteth that we speake of other necessary implements, which shoulde accompany the painefull Angler, and they be these: he shall besides these before spoken of, haue a large Musket bullet, through which hauing fired a double twisted thred, and therof made a strong loope, he may at his pleasure hang it vpon his hooke, and therwith sound the depth of every water, and so know how to plunbe his lines, and place his Corke in their due places: then he shall haue a large ring of Lead, fise inches at least in compasse, and made fast to a small long line, through which, thrusting

Of other implements for Anglers.

your

your Angle rod, and letting it fall downe into the water by your hayze line, it will helpe to vnloose your hooke if it be fastned eyther vpon weedes or other stones in the water. Then he shall haue a fine smoth broad of some curios wood for shoe sake, being as bigge as a trencher, and cut battlement-wise at each end: on which he shall fold his severall lines. His hookes he shall haue in a dzye close boxe: he shall haue a little badge of red cloath, to carry his wormes in, and mixe with them a little fresh Mould and Fenell: then he shall eyther haue a close stopt horne, in which he shall keeps Haggots, Bobbes, Palmers, and such like, or a hollow Cane, in which he may put them, and Scarrabs: he shall haue a close boxe for all sorts of line fleyes, and another for Needles, Silke, Thred, Ware, and loose hayres, then a roule of pitcht thred to mend the Angle-rod withall, if it chance to breake, a knife, a Pouetch with many Purse, in which you may place all your implements severally. Lastly, you shall haue a little fine wanded Pebbe to hang by your side, in which you shall put the fish whiche you catch, and a small round net fastned to a poales end, wherewith you may land a Pike or other great fish: to haue also a little Boat or Cot, if you Angle in great waters to carry you vp and downe, to the most conuenientest places for your pastime, is also right necessary, and fit for an Angler: And thus I haue shewed you the substance of the Anglers instruments.

C H A P. III.

Of the Anglers apparrell and inward qualities.



Duching the Anglers apparrell (for it is a respect as necessary as any other whatsoeuer) it would by no meanes be garrish, light coloured, or shining, for whatsoeuer with a glit

glittering hue refleeth upon the water, immediately it
frighteth the Fish, and maketh them flye from his pre-
sence, no hunger being able to tempt them to bite, when
their eye is offended: and of all Creatures there is none
more sharpe sighted then Fishes are. Let then your
apparell be plaine and comely, of darke colour, as Russet,
Tawny, or such like, close to your body, without any
new fashioned slashes, or hanging sleeves, wauing loose,
like sayles about you, for they are like Winkes whiche will
ever chuse your game farre from you: let it for your owne
health and ease sake, be warme and well lyned, that nei-
ther the coldnesse of the ayre, nor the moistnesse of the
water may offend you: keepe your head and feet drye, for
from the offence of them springeth Agues, and worse in-
firmities.

Anglers ap-
parell.

Now for the inward qualities of the minde, albe some
Writers reduce them into twelve heads, which indeed
whosoever enjoyeth cannot chuse but be very compleat in
much perfection, yet I must draw them into many moe
braunches. The first, and most especiall whereof, is,
that a skilfull Angler ought to be a generall Scholler, and
lens in all the liberall Sciences, as a Gramarian, to
know how eyther to Writte or discourse of his Art in true
termes, eyther without affectation or rudenesse. He
should haue sweetnesse of speech, to perswaine and intice o-
ther to delight in an exercise so much laudable. He should
haue strength of arguments, to defend and maintaine his
profession against envy or flauder. He should haue
knowledge in the Sunne, Moone, and Starres, that by
their aspects he may guesse the seasonablenesse or unsea-
sonablenesse of the weather, the breding of stormes, and
from what coastes the Windes are ever deliuered. He
should be a god knower of Countreyes, and well bled to
high wayes, that by taking the readiest pathes to every
Lake, Brook, or Riuier, his iourneys may be more cer-
taine, and lesse wearisome. He shoule haue knowledge
in proportiones of all sorte, whether Circular, square, or

Anglers
virtues.

Diametricall, that when he shall be questioned of his diurnall progresses, he may give a Graphicall discription of the Angles and Channels of Rivers, how they fall from their heads, and what compasses they fetch in their severall windings. Hee must also haue the perfect Art of Plumbing, that in the sounding of Lakes, or Rivers, hee may know how many foot or inches each severally containeth, and by adding, subtracting, or multiplying the same, hee may yeld the reason of every Rivers, swift or slow current. Hee would not be vnskilfull in Musique, that whensoever eyther melancholy, heauinesse of thought, or the perturbations of his owne fancies stirreth vp sadness in him, he may remoue the same with some godly Hymnes or Antheme, of which David giues him ample examples. Hee must be of a well settled and constant beliefe, to introy the benefit of his expectation, for then to dispayze it were better never to put in practise: and hee must euer thinke where the waters are pleasant and likely, that there the Creator of all things hath stord vp much of his plenty: and though your satisfaction be not as ready as your wishes, yet you must hope still, that with perseveraunce you shall reap the fulnesse of your Haruest: then hee must be full of loue, both to his pleasure and to his neighbour: to his pleasure, which otherwise would be irkesome and tedious, and to his neighbour that he neither give offence in any particular, nor be guilty of any generall destruction: then hee must be exceeding patient, and neither vexe nor exructiate himselfe with losses or mischances, as in lossing the pray when it is almost in the hand, or by breaking his Tooles by ignorance or negligence, but with a pleased sufferance amend erroris, and thinke mischances instructions to better carefulnesse. Hee must then be full of humble thoughts, not disdayning when occasion commands to kneele, lye downe, or wet his feet or fingers, as oft as there is any aduantage given therby, to the gaining the end of his labour. Then hee must be strong and valiant, neither to be amased with stormes, nor affrighted

With

with Thunder, but to holde them according to their naturall causes, and the pleasure of the highest: neither must he, like the Foxe which prayeth upon Lambes, imploy all his labour against the smaller frye, but like the Lyon that ceazeth Elephants, thinke the greatest Fish which swimmeth, a reward little enough for the paines which hee endureth. Then must he be liberall, and not working onely for his owne belly, as if it could never be satisfied: hee must with much cheeresfullnesse bestow the fruits of his skill amongst his honest neighbours, who being partners of his gaine, will doubly renowne his triumph, and that is euer a pleasing reward to vertue. Then must hee be prudent, that apprehending the reasons why the Fish will not bite, and all other casuall impediments which hinder his sport, and knowing the remedies for the same, hee may direct his labours to be without troublesomnes: then he must haue a moderate contentation of minde, to be satisfied with indifferent things, and not out of an auaricious greedinesse thinke every thing too little, be it never so abundant: then must he be of a thankefull nature, praising the Author of all goodnesse, and shewing a large gratefulnesse for the least satisfaction: then must hee be of a perfect memory, quicke, and prompt to call into his minde all the needfull things which are any way in his exerctise to be employed, least by omission of any, he frustrate his hopes, and make his labour effectlesse. Lastly, he must be of a strong constitution of body, able to endure much fasting, and not of a gnawing stomacke, obseruing houres, in which if it be unsatisfied, it troubleth both the minde and body, and loseth that delight which maketh the pastime onely pleasing.

Thus having shewed the inward vertues and qualities which should accompany a perfect Angler, it is meet now to give you certaine Cautions, which being carefully obserued, you shall with more ease obtaine the fulnesse of your desires. First therefore when you goe to Angle,

Cautions.

you shall obserue that all your Tooles, Lines, or Imple-
ments be (as the *Sea-man* saith) yare, fit, and ready, for
to haue them raueld, ill made, or in vreadinesse, they are
great hinderances to your pleasure. Then looke that your
baits be good, sweet, fine, and agreeing with the season:
for if they be otherwise vnproper in any of their natures,
they are vseless, and you had beeene better at home then
by the Riuere. Then you must not Angle in vnseasonable
times, for the Fish not being inclined to bite, it is a strange
intisement that can compell them: then you must be care-
full neither by your apparell, motions, or too open standing
to give afright to the Fish, for when they are scared they
slye from you, and you seeke societie in an empty house.
Then must you labour in cleere and vntroubled waters,
for when the *Wrocks* are white, muddy, and thicke, either
through inundations or other trouble, it is impossible to
get any thing with the Angle: then to respect the temper
of the weather, for extreame wind or extreame colde ta-
keth from Fish all manner of appetite: so doth likewise
too violent heat, or raine that is great, heauy, and beating,
or any stormes, Snowes, Hayles, or blustringes, especially,
that which commeth from the East, which of all is the
worst: those which blow from the South are best, and
those which come from the North or West are indiffe-
rent: many other obseruations there are, but they shall
follow in their due places.

C H A P. I I I I.

Of the best and worst seasons to Angle in, and their vses.



Before I direct you in the best seasons, and
their contrary, for the generall Art of
Angling, I thinke it not amisse, a little
by the way, to give you a glaunce or spe-
culation how to order your body and Art
at each severall water: for the manner
of

of your standing, and concealing of your selfe, is a materiall and chiefe poynct in this Art. Know then, that if you Angle in any Ponde or Standing Water, you shall before you fall to your busynesse, with your Plumbe, sound the water in diuers places, and where you finde it deepest, blackest, and least transparent, there you shall stand to Angle, placing your selfe vnder the banke, and if it be possible, so as your shadow may be carried from the water: for you must at no time, if you can chuse, let your shadow lye vpon the water: and although in these deepe places your standing open or close, are eyther of them reckoned indifferently, because the waters depth is a sufficient concealement, yet the closer you stand is accounted amongst Anglers most handsome and artificiall. But if you goe to Angle at the Riuier, then the best place to cast in your Line, is where it is deepest and clearest, so as you may behold the Sand or Grauell at the bottome: and in these places you shall strive to conceale your selfe as much as is possible, as standing behinde Poplars, Dziers, or other Trees, or vnder the conert of some Banke, Rocke, or other ruins at the syde of the Riuier: also in couert places, where are many Weedes, roots of Trees, and other rubbush, is good Angling, but very troublesome, for Fish lying there warme & in safety, will haue great relort therevnto, and bite frely, so that the Angler must be carefull in the putting in of his hooke, and very deliberate in strikking, least doing any thing rashly, he breake his Line and Hooke, being never so little entangled. It is good also to Angle in Whirle-powles, for they being like pits within the Riuers, are seldom vnfurished of the greatest Fishes: also, it is good to Angle at the falls of Waters, as vnder Bridges, standing behinde the Iawnes and Arches, or at the flow-gates of Milles, being hid with the higher Timbers. And generally where you see the Water is deepest, clearest, and calmest, being least troubled with winde or weather, is the fittest place to Angle in. Other obseruatiōns there are, but they wil follow in more necessary places.

The Anglers
manner of
standing.

The best seasons to Angle in.

To returne then to our first purpose. You shall know the best seasons to Angle in, is from Aprill till the end of October, speaking of the generall use of the pleasures: and the best houres also in generall account, are from foure in the morning till nine, and from thre in the afternoon till after six in the Evening, the winde blowing from South, West, or North, and the ayre temperate, inclined to warmenesse: but to speake of particular observations of seasons, know, that if the day be darke, close, and lowring, or haue a gentle whistling winde playing vpon the water, it is god to Angle in, and the Fish will bite with pleasure: nay, if a fine mistling dew of rayne fall gently, without violence, they will bite then the faster: also, after clouds are gone away, and the Rivers are come within their owne bankes, their first cleerenesse recouered, and the water pure, then it is god to Angle. And generally for your Summer Angling chuse the coolest time of the day, for in the heat of the day Fish betake themselues to their rest, and will neyther bite nor play. But for your Winter Angling, which is from October to Aprill, you shall not make any difference of time, if the weather be calme, for all houres of the Sunne are alike, onely the none-tide or mid-day is most preferred, especially in Ponds, and standing waters. If the water where you Angle, ebbe or flow, the best time of Angling is held to be in the ebbe: yet in some places where the Tyde is not great, there the flood is preferred. Lastly, whensoeuer you see the Trout play or leape abone the water, and the Pyle shat in pursuit of other Fishes; it is then a very god time to Angle in, vsing such baits as are then meete for the month and season, as shall be shewed hereafter.

Seasons ill to Angle in.

Now for those seasons which are naught to Angle in, there is none worse then in the violent heate of the day, or when the Winds are lowdest, Rayne heaviest, Snow and Hayle extremest: Thander and Lightning are offensive, or any sharpe ayre which flyeth from the East: the places where men use to wash Sheepe you shall for-
beare,

bear, for the very smell of the wōll will chase fish from their haunts. Land-flouds are enemies to Anglers, so also at the fall of the lease is the shedding of leaues into the water, and many other such like pollutions, of which we will speake something more hereafter.

Therefore, to conclude this Chapter, and to shew you as well how to finde your fish, as the Art to take it being found, you shal know that the Carpe, Cele, and Tench, doe euer haunt muddy places: the first, which is the Carpe, lyeth euer in the depth and bottome thereof: the Tench, among the weedes and rootes of Hedges, and the Cele vnder stones, blockes, or the rootes of Trees.

The Breame, the Cheuin, and the Vyke, haunt euer in the cleare and sandie bottome, the Vyke where you see great store of small frye: the Cheuin where the streame runneth swiftest, and the shade is greatest, and the Breame where the water is broadest, and the depth giveth greatest liberty; and generally these thre sorts of fish delight moze in standing waters then in running Rivers, although the ancient Proverbe is,

Ancome Ele, and Witham Pyke,
In all England is none syke.

which are Rivers in Lincolne-shire. Now the Salmon hath his haunt in the swiftest and broadest Rivers, whose Channels fall downe into the Sea: the Trout loneth smaller brookes, whose currant is swifte, cleare and grauelly, and euer hath his lodging in the deepest holes that are therein, and the Pearch haunteth Rivers of the same nature, onely he abideth most in the creekes and hollownes, which are about the banke, and indeede these thre fishes generally, Salmon, Trout, and Pearch, loue cleare streames, being greene with weedes, and the bottoms hard with grauell and pibble.

The Gadgen, the Loach, and the Bul-head, haunt euer shallowlest places, and where streames are slow, yet transparent:

Of Fishes
haunts.

parent: The Barbell, Koch, Dace, and Ruffe, haunt the deepe shadie places of those brykes which are mixt with more sand than granell, or where the clay is firme, and not slimie, and delight euer to lye vnder the shadowes of trees, bryambles or other things growing from the banke. The Luce or Lucerne, which indeede is but the over-grown Pyke, haunteth the broad and large Peares, which are miles in compasse, being deepe and still, and euer lodgeth in the bottome thereof amongst the roots and tufts of Hedge and Bulrushes, being quiet and least troubled. The Humber haunts the clayie Rivers of hye Countries, where the soyle is rich and full of Marle, or in Lakes and Ponds of the same nature. The Shad and Twest, haunt those waters which are brackish, deepe, and accustomed to ebbe and flow, and where they haunt there commonly also is found both the Mullet and the Suant, all which loue to lodge close and flat at the bottome of the water, so it be more Doze then grauell.

Obiection.

But here now me thinkes I heare the curios represhend me, saying, that if these rules should be infallible, that then no River or Pond could containe aboue thre sorte of fish onely, when daly experiance sheweth vs, that some Rivers haue tenne, some twentie, and some thirtie, as the Trent: for example, whose ancient name in the French is Trianca, in Latine Triginta, and in English thirtie, derived from this ground, because there standeth vpon her thirtie Castles, thirtie Market townes, and are in her thirtie severall sorte of fishes.

Answere.

To which I thus answere, that soasmuch as into most Rivers falleth many severall waters, and many soyles, according to the nature of those Countries, through which the Channels runne, that therefore euery alteration of soyle may alter the breedes of frys, and many severall kindes may be in one Streame, so that the Angler in the choyse of his pastime in such places, must eyther haue a perfect knowledge how the soyles doe alter (which he may commonly know by the Banks,) or else relye vpon his

his experience, whiche will be the best Tutor to direct him to the haunts of severall fishes; but for Ponds or Standing waters which are of one earth, there you shall finde the best prosper whiche are before rehearsed.

C H A P. V.

Of Baytes in generall, and of euery particular kinde: their Seasons, Use and Preseruations.



Since I haue thus farre orderly passed ouer the outward and instrumentall necessaries appertayning to this modest recreatiōn, shewing the severall tooles and implements which are to be employed therein, and haue also shewed the inward and mentall knowledge which shoulde be harbourēd in his breast that will be an Angler: I will now procede to speake of the Baytes and inticements, which are the agents and effecters of our desires in this pastime, without which all other imployments are vaine & vselesse: for what doth it availe to haue all other things in perfection, when this, which is the strength and life of the rest, is either imperfect or defective? To speake then generally of Baytes, they are diuided into threē kindeſ, which are, Live baytes, dead-baytes, and Baytes liuing but in apperance onely. Your live-bayts are wormes of all kindeſ, especially the red worme, the Māggot, the Bobbe, the Dorre, browne Flyes, Frogs, Crāshoppers, Hornets, Wasps, Wēs, Snayles, small Roches, Bleakies, Gudgins or Loches. Your dead baytes are pastis of all meaſuring, young brood of Wasps dryed or vndryed, the clotterd bloud of ſheepe, Cheſe, Bramble-berries, Corne, ſeedes, Cherries, and ſuch like. And your Baytes which ſeeme to liue, yet are dead, are Flyes of all ſorts and ſhapes, made of ſilke and feathers about your hookes,

which will serue for every severall season through the yere, and being by your line moued vpon the water, seeme to be live Fipes, which the fish with great greedinesse will catch vp and deuoure.

Seasons. Now for the seasons, in which these baytes are most profitable, you shall understand that the red-worme will serue for small fish all the yere long: the Moggot is good in July, the Bobbe and Dore in May, the browne Flyes in June, Frogges in March, Grasshoppers in September, Hornets in July, Wasps & Bees in July, Snaples in August. For the Roche, Bleake, or Gudgin, they serue the Pylle at any season: all Pals are good in May, June, and July: dryed Wasps in May: Shepes-bloud and Cheeze in Apvill: for Bramble berries, Cozne and Seedes, they are good at the fall of the leafe. Lastly, for your dead Flyes, which are most proper for the Trout or Grayling, you shall know that the Dun flye is good in March, being the lesser, but the greater Dun flye will serue the latter end of February: the Stone flye is good in Apvill, the Red flye, and the Yellow flye in May, the Blacke flye, the darke Yellow flye, and the Morish flye in June, the Tawny flye part in May, and part of June, the Wasp flye, and the Shell flye in July, and the clowdie darke flye in August.

Of Flyes. Now for the making of these flyes, the clowdie darke flye is made of blacke wolle, clipt from betweene a Shepes eares, and whipt about with blacke silke, his wings of the vnder mayle of the Mallard, and his head made blacke and sutable, fired vpon a fine peece of Cork, and folded so curningly about the hooke, that nothing may be perceived but the poynct and beard onely. The Shell flye is made of fine greene flore, and the wings of the wings of a Pew-glead: the Wasp flye is made of blacke wolle, lapt about with yellow silke, and the wings of the downe of a Buzzard: the Tawny flye is made of tawny wolle, and the wings set one contrary to another, and made of the white downe of a Widgen: the Morish flye is made

Of Flyes.

The making
of Flyes.

of fine flockes, shorne from a freese-gray russet, and the wings of the blackest male of a Drake: the bright yellow flye is made of yellow wooll, and his wings of a red Cockes yellow mayne: the sad yellow flye is made of blacke wooll, with a twisted yellow silke, like a list, whipt downe on eyther side, & the wings of the wings of a Buzzard, set on with black thred: the black flye is made of blacke wooll, and lapt about with the herle of the Peacockes tayle, his wings with the browne feathers of the Mallard, and some of his blew feathers on his head: the red flye is made of red wooll, lapt about with blacke silke, and the wings of the male of a Mallard, with some of the red feathers of a Capon, the stome flye is made of blacke wooll made yellow vnder the wings, and vnder the tayle with silke, and the wings, of Drakes downe: the greater dun flye is made of blacke wooll, and his wings of the dunne feathers of a Drakes tayle; the lesser dun flye is made of dunne wooll, and his wings of the male of a Partridge.

Now for the shapes and proportions of these flies, it is impossible to discribe them without paynting, therefore you shall take of these severall flies aliue, and laying them before you, trie how neare your Art can come vnto nature by an equall shape and mixture of colours; and when you haue made them, you may keepe them in close boxes vncrushed, and they will serue you many yeres.

Now for the preservation and keeping of your quicke baytes (for longer then they are neate and sweet they are not god:) you shall understand, that they must not be kept altogether, but every kinde severall by it selfe, and nourished with such comforts as it delighteth in, when it is at liberty, or with such things as they bræde in or vpon when they are first taken. And ffor the red worme: when you take them, you shall put them into a bagge of red cloath, and chopping a handfull of Fennell, mire it with halseso much fresh mould, being blacke and fertile, and they will bath line and scower therein: there be some Anglers which put wet Nesse, both vnder and aboue

Preseruation
of Baytes.

them: others put Parceley, or sweet Marioram unto them, but the former way is the best, so you obserue every night to renew their earth, or once in tws dayes to refresh them with a little new Dre dung, and thus you may keepe them tow moneths without imperfection: for the great white Haggots, you shall mire with them Sheeps fallow, or little bits of a beasts licer: the best way to scolme them, is to put them into a bagge of blankettting, with Sand, and hang them where they may haue the aye of the fire, or other warmth, for the space of an houre or two. For Frogges and Grashoppers, you shall keepe them in wet molle, and long grasse, moystened every night with wa-
ter, and when you Angle with them you shall cut off their legges by the knees, and the grashoppers wings neere to the body, for other wormes, as the Bobbe, Caddis-worms, Canker, and such like, you shall keepe them with the same things you finde them vpon: and for all live Flies you shall use them as you take them, only the Waspe, the Hornet, and Bumble Bee, which is without sting, you shall first drye them a little in a warme Ouen after the Bread is drawne, and then dip all their heads into Sheepe's bloud, and then dry them againe, and so keepe them in a close boxe, and they will continue two or thre monlhs in all god perfection.

Of making
Pastes.

Now lastly, to speake of your made bastes, whiche are Pastes, the most of them will last the whole yere, and as they be diuers, so I will shew you how to compound eue-
ry one of them in his true and perfect nature. First, to make Pastes that shall last the longest, you shal take Beane-flower, and these parts of the Conyes legge whiche is called the Almond of the Cony: or if it be of a fat yong Whelpe, or a Cat, it is as good: and to these put a like quantitie of Virgin-Ware, and Sheepe's suet, and then beat them together in a Morter, till they be made one body, then with a little clarified Honey temper it before the fire, and so make it vp in round bals, and it will last all the yere, and the use thereof is, when you Angle, to baite

baite your hooke therewith, and not any Fish which swimmeth in fresh waters but will greedily bite therat.

There is also another Paste which is of equall qualite and vse with this, and will last as long, and that is to take the Kidney-Tallow of a Shewepe, and as much young Cheese, and beat them in a Morter till they be one body, then adde to them as much Wheate-flower as will bring it to an exceeding stiffe paste, then kneade it before the fire, and allay the stiffenesse with lye Honey, and so make it vp into Bals. The vse of this Paste is like the former. Take the bloud of a Shewepe, and of Honey like quantitie, and heate them together with a lumpe of fresh Cheese, then with the fine grated crummes of white Bread, worke them into a stiffe paste, and so role it vp in bals, and when you Angle doe not baite your hooke therewith, but now and then cast little pellets thereto into the water, and it will intice the Fish to resort vnto you, and to bite with great greedinesse. There be others which take Bread crummes, and beat them in a Morter with ripe Cherryes (the stones being taken out) till it come to a stiffe Paste, and then knead it vp into bals, and vse it as you doe that which was last recited: it is most approued and very excellent for all sorts of Fish in fresh waters.

Lastly, if you take Venus Turpentine, nine times walht, and beaten, and mixe it with as much lye Honey, and then dissolve them in the oyle of Polypody, and so keepe it in a close glasse: then when you Angle, annoynt your baite but with this confection, and though the weather be never so unseasonable, or the Fish never so ill disposed to bite, yet be sure you shall not lose your labour, but take, when all men else faile of their purpose, for the secret hath beene rarely approued, and hitherto hath beene maintained with great secrete. And thus much for baites and their uses.

C H A P. V I.

Of Angling for every seuerall kinde of Fish, according to their natures.

Of the Good-gin, Roch, and Dace.



Now to shew you how you shall Angle most properly for every seuerall Fish, with true Art, according to the Nature of the Fish, I thinke it not amisse first to beginne with the Goodgin, Roch, and Dace, which being Fishes of eager bit, most foolish, least ascryftfull, and soonest deceived, are the first fittest prayes for young Scholars, and such as are but learners in the Art of Anzling, for the easinesse of their gayning will not onely settle an varesolved minde, but give unto ignorance both comfort and incouragement. If then you will Angle for any of these small Fishes in great stremes, it shall be meet to take a Boat, and finding the places of their haunt, which is commonly in landy cleere waters, and where they runne swiftest, there shalgle for them with your smallest hookes, well leaded, and smallest Lines, well Corkt. Your hooke would rather dradge then be an inch from the bottome, and your best baite is the Redde-worme, Codde-worme, Paggot, clot-tered blood of Shæpe cut in little bits, or else the white Spawme or bwoode of Waspes: and euer alalone as you see the Corke stirre, sodainely strike, for they will lye nibbling at the baite, and finding the hooke, forslake it. If you Angle for them in small Wyckes, you shall stand vnder Bridges, at the falles of Milles, behinde Poplars, or Dziers, or any where, where the stremme runneth deepe and swift: and euer note, that when your bit failes, you remoue your place, and seeke out a new standing, and with all forget not, euer when you Angle for any of these fish, to cast in some of your Paste before your hooke, for this will

will make your sport much more abundant: and although the Dace, out of his owne nature, bitteth high and neare the toppe of the water, yet these baites and intisements will make him stoape and be taken easilly.

If you will Angle for the Carpe, you must haue a strong rodde, and a strong Line, of at least seauen or nine hayres, and eyther mixt with a greene or wretched silke: your worke must be large, long, and smooth: your Leads smooth and close, and firt neare the hooke, and the hooke of almost a thre-penny compasse. He is very dainty to bite but at some especiall houres, as very earely in the morning, or very late at night, and therefore he must be very much entised with Paste: his best bayts are the Nosse-worme, the redde-worme, or the Menow, for he seldom refuseth them. The Cadis worme is god for him in June, and the Magot, Blacke-worme, or Crashopper, in July, August and September. If you make him Paste of soure Ale, whites of Egges, and Bread-Crummes, it will very much intise him: also, I would euer wish you before you fish for the Carpe, to cast in a handfull of whits Bread chippings into the Pond or Riner, for they will not onely intise him to your bayt, but also gine you notice if you be neare his haunt, for you shall presently heare him smacke above the water, and then if you misse him, eyther your fortune or skill is not god.

If you will Angle for the Chub, Cheuin, or Trout, all your Instruments must be strong and god: your rodde darke and discoloured, your line strong, but small and shor, your hooke of a two-penny compasse, and if you Angle with a Flye, then, nor Lead, nor Cork, nor Quill, if otherwise, then all of a handsome and suitable proportion. The best standing to take them is in close and concealed places, as behinde Trees, Walles, or Arches of Bridges: their haunts are in cleare waters which run vpon Sand or Grauell, and they are in best season from March till Michaellmas: if you Angle for them with dead Flies, without Lead or Cork, I haue shewed you

Of the Chub,
Cheuin, or
Trout.

In the former Chapter, the severall flies for each severall month; but if you angle for them with other baytes, then you must haue both Corke and Lead, for he will bite neare the bottome, yet sometimes you may angle for him with a small Menow hangd at your hooke by the neather parts, without Corke or Lead, and so draw the bayte vpon the top of the water, and both with it, and with every flye, strike rather before then after he biteth. If you angle for him at the ground in March, Aprill, May and September, the Menow is a good bayte, so is the Stone-flye, Caddis worme, Bobbe, red worme, ditch canker, young Frogges, the worme that breedeth on the Dzier leaves and the Docke-canker mixt together. In June Crickets and Doze-flyes are good: In July the Grasshopper is good, so is the humble Bee, dyed Wasps or dyed Hornets, or any of their young broode in the Combines. In August flying Piscinires are good, so is the Colwort-worme, or the Haggot, and in September eyther Cherries, Pice befores they haue hayre, or the great Sow worme.

Of the Eele.

I now will angle for the Eele, the best place is at Weares, Mill-ponds, bridges, hollow baickes, or any swift falling water: your Line strong, and not aboue two elles in length, and very heauily plumde, a good round Hooke, but no Corke, because you must not strike till the Eele plucke: neyther must you by any meanes pull hastily, but holding your Line stiffe, with labour & patience tire hym, least that tearing his chaps, you loose him. The best bayte is the red worme, or little pieces of Sheeps guts.

Of the Floun-
der & Sewant.

The Flounder and Sewant are greedie biters, yet very craftie: for they will nibble and sucke at a bayt a good while before they swallow it, and if they perceiue the hooke, they will flye from it: therefore to make them more hastie of the baite, you must ever be moving your line, and seldom let it lye still. They lye most commonly in the deepest places of the River where the water is mildest, and runneth

runneth with least force: also they lye neare vnto the banke, and delight most in the streme, which is brackish, and mixt with the salt water. Your Line must be strong, and well plumbde neere to the hooke: and the best bayte is the red Worme, and the young brood of Waspes.

The Barbell, or Grayling, which some call the Umber, are very subtil and craftie fishes: therefore you must be carefull that your baytes be sweete and new, and when you angle for them, doe in all things as you doe for the Trout, for they bite alost in the Summer, and at the bottome in the Winter. Your lines must be extraordinarilly strong, and your hookes of a three-penny Compasse, for they are fishes of waightie bodies, and when they are stroke must haue liberty to play, and tyet themselves, or else they will indanger the breaking of your rod, and therefore your line must be of the longest size.

The best season to angle for the Breame, is from the latter end of February till September, he is a lusty strong fish, and therefore your tooles must be good, the baytes in which he most delighteth is in wormes of all sorts, Butterfles, greene flies, pastes of bread crummes, or the brood of Waspes.

The Tench is a fish that enuer loueth the bottome of Ringers, where the Dole or Hudde is thickest: and is most fit to be angled for in the heighth of Summer, for at other seasons he is not apt to bite, & at all times he is very daintie. The baytes in which he delighteth most, is pastes that are very sweet, and the browner the better, especially if it be made with the bloud of a sheepe. At the great Red-worme also he will bite, and so much the sooner if you mire them with this paste: the Maggot and dried Waspe he will seldom refuse, chieflie being dipt in honey.

The Bleake, Ruffe, and Perch are fishes which bite neyther hye nor low, but for the most part in the midst of the water, therefore your line must be very lightly

Of the Gray-
ling or Barbell.

Of the Tench.

Of the Bleake,
Ruffe, and
Perch.

plumbde, and farre from the hooke. The bayts which most intice them, besides the Red-worme, is the house-aye in the Summer, & the fat of Bacon in the Winter: in Aprill they will bite well at the Wob-worme or Paggot, and in all other seasons they seldomre refuse any worme or canker. Your Line would be small, and well armed from the hooke a handfull with small Wyer, for the teeth of the Perch will else gnaw it a sunder.

Of the Pyke.

The Pike is a fish of great strength and waight, insomuch that you can hardly haue a Line of hayre to hold him, therefore your best Anglers vse most commonly a Chaulke line, your Angle-rod also must haue no small top, but be all of one peece and bignesse, and the line made exceeding fast for slipping: your hooke would be of the strongest Wyer, white or yellow, and made double, the poynts turning two contrary waies, and then armed with strong Wyer a fote at least: his best bayte is a small Koch, Dace or Menow, the hooke being put in at the tayle, and comming soorth vnder the Gills, and you must seldomre or neuer let your bayte lyestill in the water, but draw it vp and downe, as though the fish did moue in the water, and fled from the Pyke, for this will make him more eager and hastie to bite: and having bit, you must be sure to tyre him well before you take him vp. The yellow line Frogge is also an excellent bayte for the Pyke, for you must understand, that they naturally delight not in any dead or vnmouing foode.

Of Snickling
the Pyke.

There be some which take great delight to snickell or halter the Pyke, which is good when Pikes are broke out of Ponds or Rivers, and come into little small ditches or rundels, as is oft to be seene in low countries. The way then to halter them is, first to finde the Pyke where hee lyeth (which in the heat of the day, you may easily doe). then take your Chaulke-line, and making a large running noze thereof, put it gently into the water, about two foot before the nose of the Pyke, then when you feele it touch the ground, cause one to goe behinde the Pyke, and with a poale

poale to stirre him, then as he shutteth, mette him with your noze, and so with a lobaine and quicke Jerke throw him vpon the land. In this sport you must be very readie, nimble, and quicke sighted, for if you giue him the least time, he will escape you.

Now lastly, touching the angling for the Salmon, albe he is a fish which in truth is unfit for your trauell, both because he is too huge and cumbersome, as also in that he naturally delighteth to lie in the bottomes of great deepe Riuers, and as neare as may be in the middell of the channell, yet for as much as many men esteeme that bell which is got with most difficultie, you shall understand that the baytes in which he most delighteth are those which serue for the Trout, as pastre or fynes in the Summer, and red-wormes, Bob-wormes, or cankers on the Water-docks after Michaelmas. And thus much for the Art of Angling and taking of each severall sort of fish which liue in the fresh or brackish waters.

Of the Salmon.

CHAP. VII.

Of taking fish without Angles, and first of laying hookes.



The laying of hookes to take fish in the night, is most commonly vsed for the Pyke, in great broad Meates or Waters, full of Hedge Bulrushes, and other weedes, being very deepe, and muddie: Some doe vse to lay them for the Eele also, but you shall understand, that if you lay for the Pyke, you must by no meanes let your hooke goe to the bottome, but with a floate keepe it halse a fote from the ground, but if you lay for Eeles, then let your hookes be smaller, and sinke as low as they will.

Now for the manner of laying them, you shall bayt the hooches as you did when you Angled with ~~Menow~~, ~~Koch~~, ~~Dace~~, ~~Gudgen~~ or ~~Willes-thumbe~~: and being made fast to strong packthred, fasten also that packthred to a strong Cord, which Cord if it be thre fadome in length, may hold sixtene or twentie hooches. Then fixing two strong stakes into the earth, fasten the two endes of the bigge Cord to the two stakes, and so let it lye from Sunne set till Sunne rise, and you shall never sayle, but some of your hooches will haue taken: onely obserue if you lay for Pykes, to lay in the middell of the water neare the Sedge, and Weedes, but if you lay for Cales, lay neare the Bankes, so there bee no hollow or rotten trees growing thereon.

Now if you would with these laide hooches take any other sortes of fish, you shall lay such hooches as are fit for them: and before you depart away, cast into the water good store of Pellets of those pastes which are proper for the fishes you would take: as the paste which is made of Branne, Sheches bloud, Garlick, and ices of Wine, will take all sortes of small fish: that paste which is made of Sheches Liver, Cuttes, Hogges bloud, Bread-crums, and Opoponare, will bring Pearch, Tench, Carpe, or Beame to your hooches, and that paste which is made of Rue, Pine-Apple kernels, Beane-meale and Honey, will bring the Salmon, the Trout, Cheuan, or Barbell, to your hooches at all times of the yere.

C H A P. VIII.

Of preseruing Fish from all sorts of devouurers.



Mongst all the rauenous Creatures which destroy Fish, there is none more greedy then the Otter, whose onely food being thereon, hourely lyeth in wait to consume them: therefore though some Fishermen vse to take him with a Wheele made with a double tunnell, and called by the name of the Otter-Wheele, whose practise is so ordinary that every Fisherman knowes the vse of the same: yet for a moze ready and easie way to destroy him, you shall as neare as you can finde out his haunt, and the holes that are in the banke, and vnder the rootes of Trees where hee lodgeth, and then take a great Cele, and sittynge her backe aboue her nauell, put in thre or foure lumps of Arsnicke, and then stich vp the skinne againe, and so lay the Cele from the nauell downeward in the water, and from the nauell upward out of the water: whiche when the Otter findes, it is his propertie to eate to the nauell and no further, whiche if he doe it is the last he will eate.

Next to the Otter, the Verne is a great devouurer of Fish, especially the small Frye, or that which liues in shalow places: therefore to destroy the Verne, you shall take a strong Barbell hooke, and bayt it, eyther with a Mewnow, or a piece of Dogges flesh: colour your Line greene, and lay it in a shalow place made fast to some stake, where the Verne may wade to the knee to take it, and assone as he hath swallowed it, hee shall no more goe from the place.

Now, for as much as this Fowle is a great destrucciōn unto the young Spalwe or Frye of Fish, it shall be good for the preseruation thereof to stake downe into the

bottomes

bottomes of your Ponds god long Kids, or Faggots of brashwoods, mixt with the boughes of greene Willowes, or Dziers, in which the Fish casting their spawne, it will be a defence for them, till they be able to flye into better safetie.

Next to the Verne, the Water Rat is a great destroyer of yong Fish, especially Troutts, Creuilles, or any that lye in holes in the bankes: the best way to destroy them is by hunting them with water Dogges, which is a very god sport, and I haue seene twenty kilde in an afternoone: but some doe vse to take them with Hutches, or dead-salles, set in their haunts, but the former way is the better.

Next them the Sea-pye is a great devouurer of all sorts of Fish, and there is no better way to take him then by setting Roddes drest with Water-Lime, and set shoring by the edge of the water, one creesse ouer another, in such places as the water is most chalwest, and upon some tufts of greene weeds lay a fish for a baite vnder the rods, at which he can no sooner strike but he is taken.

Next these the Kings Fisher (which is a small greene Bird) is a great destroyer of Fish, and the way to take hym is to marke his haunt where hee commonly sitteth, which is euer in some Bush next the Riuier: then set a little Cradle of lymde strawes about his seat, and they will quicklye take him, for he seldom chanceth, but euer sitteth vpon one bough.

Now to conclude, for the Cormorant, the Morehen, the Wald-Coot, or the Ospray, which destroy all kinde of fish whatsoeuer, there is no way better to kill them then by watching their haunts, to shot at them with a Fowling-piece, and in the breeding time of the yere to destroy their nests.

C H A P. I X.

Of the ordering of Ponds, for the nourishment of Fish.

Here is nothing that killeth Fish or maketh them to prosper worse then putrifid and stinking water: neyther is there any thing which corrupteth water sooner then Weedes, Hedge, and such filthinesse being suffered to grow therein: therefore it shall be good once in threé yéeres to cleanse your Ponds of all manner of Weedes and filth, which with a small Boat and a sharpe hooke you may easily doe at the fall of the Leafe, for to cut them in the Spring doth increase them. Now if your Ponds be much subiect to mudde, as for the most part those in clay Countries are, then it shall be good once in seauen yéeres to draine them, and lad them, and this would be done at the beginning of the Spring: and such Fish as you meane to preserve, you shall put into smaller pits or stewes, and the other dispose at your pleasure: then causing the mudde to be troden with mens feet as you tread Morter, you shall see all the Geles rite aloft, whitch when you haue taken also, then with Shouels and troughe Spades cast out all the mudde and filth (whitch is a singular compasse for Land) vpon the Banke: then sodde the bottome of the Pond, and the sides with greene sods, and fire them hard into the earth with small stakes of Hallow, & these sides will nourish the Fish exceedingly: This done, if your Pond haue not any fresh Spring in it, then you shall lade the water backe againe into it, and then draining your stewes, take out your store of Fish, and put them againe into your Pond, obseruing euer that there be two parts spawners, and but a third melters. These pits and small stewes, how so euer others write to the contrary, are better for feeding of Fish then breedyng: therefore you shall euer keepe them with fresh wa-
ter, and placing so one by another, that you may empty them

them at pleasure, once in thre moneths renew their banks and bottomes with fresh sods of the fruitfulllest grasse: also, you shall put into them good stoe of small Frye of Roche, Dace, Menowe, Loche, and Miller-thumbs, for the bigger Fish will feede thereon: also the inward Carbadge and blood of Sheepe, Calves, Hogges, and such like, which will sat Fish sodainely, for you must know that as the Fish in Rivers haue, by vertue of the current, ever something brought unto them to feede on, so the Fish which is imprisoned in Ponds, and wants that helpe, must eyther be relieved, or else perish, & there is nothing better to feede them with, then that before spoken, or else Bredewers Graynes, Chippings, Curds, and any Copne whatsoeuer, throwne into the Ponds morning and euening.

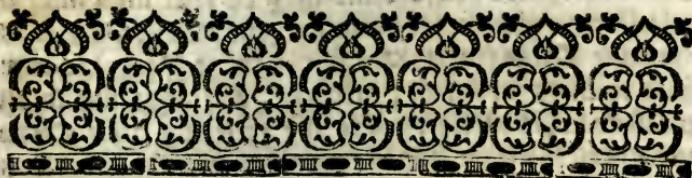
C H A P. X.

Of the best water-Lime.



He best water Lime that can be made, and which will most surely holde within the water, is to take a pounde of the strongest Bird-lime, and wash it in nine running waters, till there be no hardnes in it, and then beat out the water cleane, and dry it: which done put it into an earthen pot, and adde thereto as much Capons grease as will make it run, two spoonfull of strong Vinegar, a very little Lampe-Oyle, and Venice Turpentine, and boyle them all gently together vpon a soft fire, stirring it continually. Then take it from the fire, and let it coole, then at any time when you meane to vse it, warme it, and then annoynt eyther your Rods, Bushes, Strawes, or Lines, and ne water will take away the strength.

F I N I S.



Of the fighting Cocke.

CHAP. I.

Of the Choyce, Ordering, Breeding, and Dyeting of the fighting-Cocke for Battell.



INCE there is no pleasure more noble, delightsome or voyde of covzenage and deceipt then this pleasure of Cocking is: and since many of the best wisedomes of our Nation haue beene pleased to participate with the delights therein, I thinke it not amisse, as well for the instruction of those which are vnerpersuaded, as sozftysing of them which haue some knowledge therein, to declare in a few lines the election, breeding, and secrets of dyeting the fighting Cocke, which hauing beene hitherto concealed and unwritten of, is (for our pleasure sake) as worthy a generall knowledge as any delight whatsoeuer.

To speake then first of the choyce of the fighting Cocke, you shall understand that the best Carracters you can obserue in him, is the shape, colour, courage, and Harpe heele: for his shape the middle and indifferent size

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The choyce
of the Cocke
for Battell.

is

is ever accounted best, because they be ever most match-
able, strong, nimble, and ready for your pleasure, whereas
the huge Cocke (which we call the turne-Pocke) is ever
hard to finde an equal, lubberly, and affording small
pleasure in his battell: and so the exceeding little Cocke
is as hard to match, and is commonly weake and tedious
in his manner of fighting. He would be of a proud and
upright shape, with a small head, like unto a Spar-hawke,
a quicke large eye, and a strong beake, croukt and bigge at
the setting on, and in colour suitable to the plume of his
Feathers, as blacke, yellow, or reddish. The beame of
his legge would be very strong, and according to his
Plume, bleu, gray or yellow: his spurres long, rough,
and sharpe, a little bending and looking inward. For his
colour, the gray pyle, the yellow pyle, or the red with the
blacke brest, is esteemed the best: the pyde is not so good,
and the white and dunne are the worst. If hee be redde
about the head, like sharlet, it is a signe of lust, strength,
and courage, but if he be pale it is a signe of sickenesse and
faintnesse. For his courage, you shall obserue it in his
walke, by his treading, and the pride of his going, and in
the pen, by his oft crowing. For the sharpenes of his heele,
or as Cocke-masters call it, the narrow heele, it is onely
seen in his fighting, for that Cocke is sayd to be sharpe
heeld, or narrow heeld, which every time he riseth hitteth,
& draweth bloud of his aduersary, goulding (as they fearme
it) his spurres in bloud, and threatening at every blow an
end of the battell. And these Cockes are surely of great
estimation, for the best Cocke-masters are of opinion, that
a sharpe heeld Cocke, though hee be a little fasse, is much
better then the truest Cocke which hath a dull heele, and
hitteth seldom, for though the one fight long yet hee sel-
domme wounds, and the other though hee will not indure
the vttermost hewing, yet he makes a quicke dispatch of
his busynesse, for every blow puts his aduersary in danger.
But that Cocke which is both assuredly hard, and also
very

very Sharpe heele, hee is to be esteemed, and is of the most account above all other, and therefore in your generall election chuse him which is of strong shape, good colour, true valour, and of a most Sharpe and ready heele.

Now for the breeding of these Cockes for the battell, it is much different from those of the dunghill, for they are like Birds of pray, in which the female is ever to be preferred and esteemed before the male, and so in the breed of these Birds you must be sure that your Henne be right, that is to say, she must be of a right plumie, as gray, griseell, speckt, or yellowish, blacke or browne is not amisse: she must be kindly to her young, of large body, well pockt behinde for large Egges, and well tukted on the crowne, which shewes courage: if she haue weapons she is better, but for her valour it must be excellent, for if there be any spot of cowardise in her, the Chickens can not be trus. And it is a note amongst the best breeders, that the perfect Henne from a Dunghill-Cocke, will bring a good Chick, but the best Cockes from a Dunghill Henne can never get a good Bird: and I haue knowne in mine owne expe-rience, that the two famousest Cockes that ever fought in these dayes, the one called Noble, the other Grillell, be- got on many ill Hennes very badde Cockes, but the fa-mous Henne Linkes never brought forth ill Bird, how bad soever her Cocke were.

Having then unto perfect Cockes got perfect Hennes (for that is the best breeding) you shall know that the best season of the yeare to brede in, is from the increase of the Hone in February, to the increase of the Hone in March, for one March Bird is ever better worth then three at any other season. You shall place her Henne in which she sitteth, to stand warme, and to make her bedde of soft and sweet straw, for they be much tenderer then the Dunghills are, neither shall you suffer any other Fowle to come in her viewe where she sits, for it will moue her to displeasure, and make her in danger her Eggs.

The breeding
of the battell
Cocke.

You shall also obserue in her sitting, whether she be busie to turne her Egges (which is a god signe in a Henne) and if she be slacke you shall helpe her at such times as she riseth from her nest, and euer be sure that when she commeth from her nest to haue meat and water ready for her, lest being forced to seeke her foode, she suffer her Egges to cole too much: also, you shall haue Sand, Grauell, and fine sifted ashes in the roome where she sitteth, in which she may bathe and trimme her selfe, at her pleasure. After one and twenty dayes is the time of their hatching, and if when they are new hatched, shee doe neglect to couer and keepe the first warme till the rest be disclosed, you shall obserue her, and take those that are first opened, and lapping them warme in Woll, lay them within the ayre of the fire till the rest be hatcht, and then put them all vnder her, and keeping both the Henne and them exceeding warme, for they be so tender that the least cold will kill them, and suffer neither them nor the Henne to goe abroade into the ayre till they be a moneth olde: and let them haue stoe of foode, as Dat-mcale, Cheese parings, Chister-wheat, and such like, and a large roome to walke in, the floore being boarded, for the earth-floare is too moist, and the plaster-floare too colde. After they are a moneth olde, you shall let them walke in some grasse court, where they may haue stoe of wormes, but by all meanes be sure that there be no stinking puddles of wa-
ter in it, no sinckes, nor filthy Channels, for it is the greatest poysone that can be to Birds of this nature, and breedeth those diseases which are most mortall: therefore if every morning before they goe forth, you perfume them and their roome with Rosemary, or Penny-royall burnt, it is a great preseruation against all those infirmitie, or to choppe Leke blades amongst their meate is good also. In this sort you shall nourish them till you may distinguishe the Cocke-Chicken from the Henne, and then seeing their Combes or Wattels but appear,

you

yon shall cut them away, and seare them close, and so annoynt the soare with sweete Butter till it be whole. This will make them haue fine, small, slender and smooth heads, whereas to suffer the Combe to grow to his bignesse, and then cut it away, it will make him haue a goutie thicke head, with great lumpes: neyther is the flure of blood wholesome, for the least losse of bloud in a feathered fowle, is mortall and dangerous. You shall suffer your Cocke-chickens to goe together with their Hennes till they beginne to fight, and pecke one at another, but then you shall seperate them, and dispierce them into severall walkes: and that walke is the best for a fighting Cocke which is farthest from resort, as at Wylde milles or Water-milles, Grange-houses, and such like, where he may liue with his Hennes without the offence or company of other Cockes: Lodges in Parkes are also good, and so are Coop-warrens, onely they are a little too much haunted with vermine, and that is dangerous, let the feeding-place for your Cockes be vpon soft drye ground, or vpon boards, for to stede vpon paved earth, or on Plaster flooress will make their beakes weake, blunt, and not apt to holde fast. Any white Corne is good foode for a Cocke in his walke, and so are tostes or crustes of bread stipt in drinke, or mans vrine, for it will scower and coole them inwardly.

If your Chickens beginne to crow (not being syre montheis old) cleare and lowde, or at unseasonable-times, doe not esteeme them, for it is an apparant signe of cowardise and falshoode: for the true Cocke is very long before he get his boyce, and when he hath it, he observes his houres with the best iudgement. Unto your fighting Cocke thre Hennes are sufficient, five are with the most, for they are so hotte of nature and will tredae so much, that they soone consume their naturall strenght.

A Cocke wold not be put to the battell before hee bee two yeres old, at which time he is perfect and compleate in every member, soz to suffer him to fight when his spurres are but warts, you may well know his courage, but never his goodnesse. You must also haue an especiall care to the Perch whereon your Cocke sitteth when hee rouseth, soz if it be too small in the grype, or crooked, or so ill placed that he cannot sit but he must stradie with his legges, any of these faults will make him vneuen heeld, and whatsoeuer he was naturally, yet by this accident, he will never be good striker, for the making of the Perch, eyther maketh or marreth the Cock, therfore to prevent this fault, the best way is to haue in your rouse a row of little Perches, not aboue seauen or eight inches in length, and not a fowte from the ground, so that your Cocke may with ease goe vp to them, and being set, must of force haue his legges stand neare together, soz it is a rule that he which is a close sitter is ever a narrow striker. Let the footstole of the Perch be round and smooth, and about the bignesse of a mans arme. Yet for your better knowledge, because wordes cannot so well expresse these quantitieis, it shall not be amisse for you to goe to some famous Cock-masters house, and view the Perches which are within his feeding pennes, and according to those proportions frame your owne, for the perch is the making and spoiling of any Cocke whatsoeuer. Againe, you must be carefull, that when your Cocke doth leape from his Perch, that the ground be soft whereon he lighteth, for if it be hard or rough, it wyl make your Cocke grow goutie, and put soorth knots vpon his feete.

The dyeting of
Cocks for the
battell.

Now lastly, for the dieting and ording of a Cocke for a battell, which is a secret, yet never divulged, but kept close in the breasts of some few, and for as much as in it onely consisteth all the ground and substance of the pleasure, the best Cocke undited, not being able to encounter with the woorke Cocke that is dieted : you shall under-
stand,

Stand, that the time to take vp your Cockes is at the latter end of August (for from that time till the latter end of May, Cocking is in request) and hauing viewed them well, and see that they are sound, hard feathered, and full summed, you shall put them into severall pens, the models whereof you may behold in every Cock-masters or Inn-keepers house, hauing a mouing Perch in it, to set at which corner of the pen you please.

Of taking vp
Cocks.

This pen would be made of very close boardes, well toynd together all but the foerfront, which would be made open, like a grate, one Barre two inches distant from another, and before the grate two large Troughs of soft wood, one for his meate, the other for his water. The doore of the grate would be made to lift vp and downe, of such largenesse that you may with ease put your Cocke in and out, and daily cleanse the pen to keepe it swete and wholesome. The Pen would be at least thre foote in height, and two foote in square every way, and many of them may be toynd in one front, according to the bignesse of the rooms, in which they are built: and also one aboue another, onely with overshadowing boardes, so that one Cocke may not see another.

Of the Cocke
Pen.

When your Cocke, as aforesaid, is put vp into his pen, you shall for thre or foure dayes feede him onely with old Manchet, the crust pared away, and cut into little square bits, and you shall giue him to the quantity of a god great handfull at a time, and you shall feede him thre times in the day, that is to say, at Sunne rise, at high noone, and at Sunne set. You shall ever let him haue before him the finest, coldest, and sweetest Spring-Water that you can get. After hee hath bene thus fed foure dayes, and his Corne, Wormes, Grauel, and other course feeding scowred out of him, you shall then in stead of feeding him in the Morning, take him out of the Pen, and another Cocke also, and putting a payre of Hots vpon each of their heeles, which

Of Sparring
of Cocks.

Hots

Hots are soft bumbasted roules of Leather, covering their Spurs, so that they cannot hurt or bruise one another, and so letting them downe on the greene grasse, let them fight and buffet one another a god space, as long as in their teaching they doe not wound or draw blood one vpon another: and this is called the sparring of Cocks: it heateth and chaseth their bodies, and it breaketh the fat and glut which is within them, and maketh it apt to cleanse and come away.

After your Cocks haue sparred sufficiently, and that you see them pant and grow weary, you shal take them vp, and taking off their Hots, you must haue drie straw baskets made for the purpose, with sweete soft straw to the middle, and then putting in your Cocke, couer him with sweete straw vp to the top, and then lay on the lidde close, and there let your Cocke stoue and sweate till the Evening. But yet before you put him into the stoue, you shall take Butter, Rosemary finely chopt, and white Hugar-candie, all mixt together, and giue him a lump there-of, as much as your thumbe, and then let him sweat, for the nature of this scowring is to bring away his grease, and to brede breath and strength. You may in time of necessity for want of these straw baskets stow your Cocke in a Cocke-bagge, by laying straw both vnder and aboue him, but it is not so god, because the Ayze hath more power to passe thorow it. After foure of the clocke in the Evening, you may take your Cocke out of the stoue, and licking his head and eyes all ouer with your tongue, put him into his Pen, and then taking a god handfull of bread, small cut, put it into his trough, and then pissing into the trough, also giue it him to eate, so as he may take his bread out of the warme brine, for this will make his scowring worke, and cleanse both his head and bodie wonderfully.

Of the best
Diet-bread.

Now you shall vnderstand, that the bread which you shall giue him at this time, and at all other times during his

His dyeting shall not be Maunchet, but a speciall Bread made for the purpose, in this manner: you shall take of Wheat-meale halfe a Pecke, and of fine Oat-meale flower as much, and mixing them together kneade them into a stiffe pastre, with Ale, the white of a dozen Egges, and halfe a pound of Butter, and having wrought the doive exceeding well, make it into broad thinne Cakes, and being thre or fourre dayes olde, and the bliskerings of the outside cut away, cut it into little square bits, and give it the Cocke.

There be some that in this Bread will mixe Licoraz, Annis-seeds, and other hot Spices, and will also in the Cockes water steep slices of Licoraz, but it is both vn-naturall and vnwholesome, and maketh a Cocke so hot at the heart that when hee comes to the latter end of a battell he is suffocated and overcome with his owne heat: therfore I advise all men of iudgement to take that for the best dyet which is most naturall and least contrary to the Fowles ordinary feeding.

But to returne to my former discourse, after you haue fedde your Cocke thus for all night, you shall the next day let him rest, and onely give him his ordinary feedings of Bread and Water, then the next day (which is the second day after his sparring) you shall take him into a fayre euene greene Close, and there setting him downe, ha-
ving some Dunghill Cocke in your armes you shall shew it him and so run from him, and entice him to follow you, and so chase vp and downe halfe an houre at the least, sus-
taining him now and then to haue a stroke at the Dung-hil Cocke. And when you see that he is well heated and pan-
teth, you shall take him vp and beare him into your Cocke-
house, and there first glue him this scouring: Take of Butter, which hath no salt, halfe a pound, and beate it in a Morter with the leaues of Hearbe of Grace, Isop, and Rosemary, till the Hearbes cannot be perceiued, and that the Butter is brought to a greene Value, and of this giue

The best
Scovring.

the Cocke a roule or two, as bigge as your thumbe, and then stoue him in the basket, as is before sayd, till Cewing, and then feede as was formerly declared. The next day you shall let him rest and feede, and the next day after you shall sparre him againe, and thus every other day for the first soznight, you shall eyther sparre or chace your Cocke, which are the most naturallest and kindliest heates that you can gine him, and after every heate you shall gine him a scouring: for this will breake and cleanse from him all grease, glut, and filthinesse, which lying in his body, makes him purstie, faint, and not able to stand out the latter end of a battell. Having fedde your Cocke thus the first soznight, the second soznight you shall also feede him in the same manner, and with the same food, but you shall not sparre him, or give him heats aboue twice in a weeke at the most, in so much that thrice or four times in the soznight will be sufficient, and each time you shall stoue and scour him, according to the nature of his heats, that is to say, if you heat him much you shall stoue him long, and give him of your scouring the greater quantitie: if you finde that hee is in god breath, and needeth but sleight heates, then you shall stoue him the lesse while, and give him the lesse of the scouring. Now to the third soznight, which maketh vp the sixe weeke compleat, (being a time sufficient to prepare a Cocke for his battell) you shall feede him as aforesaid, but you shall not sparre him at all, for feare of making his head tender or soze, neither give him any violent exercise, but onely twice or thrice in the soznight, moderately, let him runne and chase vp and downe, to maintaine his winde, and now and then cuse a Cocke, which you shall holde to him in your hands, which done, you shall gine him his scouring well rould in the pouder of Sugar-Candy, white or browne, but browne is the better, for the Cocke then being come to perfect breath, and having no filth in his body for the scouring to worke on, it will worke vpon the vitall parts, and make

make the Cocke sicke, which the Sugar-Candy will prevent, and strengthen nature against the medicine. After the end of six weekes feeding, finding your Cocke in lust and breath, you may fight him at your pleasure, obseruing that he haue at least thre dayes rest before he fight, and well emptied of his meat before you bring him into the Pit.

Now when y^e ou bring him into the Pit to fight, you must haue an especiall care to the matching of him, for in that Art consisteth the greatest glory of the Cocke-master, for what availeth it to feede neuer so well, if in the matching you give that advantage which ouerthoweth all your former labour? Therefore in your matching there is two things to be considered: that is, the length of Cockes, and the strength of Cockes: for if your aduersary-Cocke be too long, yours shall hardly catch his head, and then he can neither indanger eye or life: and if he be the stronger, he will ouer-beare your Cocke, and not suffer him to rise, and strike with any aduantage: therefore, for the knowledge of these two rules, though experiance be the best Tutor, yet the first, which is length, you shall iudge by your eye, when you gripe the Cocke about the waste, and make him shut out his legges, in which posture you shall see the vtmost of his height, and so compare them in your iudgement. Now for his strength, which is knowne by the thickenesse of his body, for that Cocke is euer helde the strongest which is largest in the garth, you shal know it by the measure of your hands, grypping the Cocke about from the points of your great fingers, to the toynts of your thimbles, and eyther of these aduantages by no meanes give to your aduersary, but if you doubt losse in the one, yet be sure to gaine in the other: for the weake long Cocke will rise at more ease, and the shozt strong Cocke will give the surer blow, so that because all Cockes are not cast in a mould, there may be a reconciliation of the aduantages, yet by all meanes give as little as you can.

The matching
of Cockes.

Of preparing
Cockes to
the fight.

When your Cocke is equally matcht, you shall thus prepare him to the fight, first with a payze of fine Cocke heares you shall cut all his Maine off, close to his necke, even from his head to the setting on of his Shoulders, then you shall clip off all the feathers from his tayle close to his rumpe: where, the more sharlet that you see his rumpe, in the better estate of body the Cocke is. Then you shall take his wings, and spreading them forth by the length of the first feather of his wing, clipp the rest slope-wise with sharpe points, that in his rising he may therewith indanger the eyes of his aduersary: then with a sharp knife you shall scrape smooth, and sharpen his beake, then shall you smooth and sharpen his spurres.

The ordering
of Cockes af-
ter the Battell,
and the curing
them.

Lastly, you shall see that there be no feathers about the crowne of his head for his foe to take holde on, and then with your spittle moisting his head all ouer, turne him into the Pit to proue his fortune: when the battell is ended the first thing you doe, you shall search his wounds, and as many as you can finde you shall with your mouth sucke the bloud out of them, then wash them with warme Urine, to keepe them from ranckeling, and give him a roule or two of your best scouring, and so stoue him vp as hot as you can, both with straw and blanketting in a close Basket for all that night, then in the morning take him forth, and if his head be much sweld, you shall sucke his wounds againe, and bathe them with warme Urine, then having in a fine bagge the pouder of the Hearbe Robert, well dyed, and finely seyrst, pounce all the soze places therewith, and then give the Cocke a handfull of Bread to eate out of warme Urine, and so put him into the stoue againe, and by no meane let him feele the ayre till all the swelling bee gone, but twice a day sucke his wounds, dresse him, and feede him, as is aforesaid. But if he haue received any hurt, or blemish in his eye, then you shall take a lease or two of right ground Iuye, not that which runneth along the ground, and is of the igno-

rant

rant so called, but that which growes in little tufts in the bottome of hedges, and is a little round rough lease, and having chewe it well in your mouth, and suckt out the tuyce, spit it into the eye of the Cocke, and it will not onely cure it of any wound, or blow in the eye, where the sight is not pierced, but also defend it from the breed-
ing of sylmes, hawes, warts, or such other infirmities, which quite destroy the sight: observing that you doe not cease to dresse the eye therewith so long as you shall perceiue any blemish therein.

Now if your Cocke haue in his fight bryned himselfe, eyther by narrow striking, or other crosse blow, you shall finde out the wound, and presently binde thereunto the fine soft downe of a Hare, and it will both stanch it, and cure it. For any other casuall infirmitie or sickeresse which shall happen unto Cockes, looke in a little Booke called Cheape and Good, and you shall finde them set downe at large, onely I will give you this one small re-
membrance, that after you haue put forth your wounded Cockes to their walkes, and come to visit them a moneth or two after; if you finde about their heads any swelled bunches, hard, and blackish at one end, you shall know that in such bunches are unsound chores: therefore pre-
sently with your knife you shall open the same, and crush out the chores with your thumbs, then with your mouth

sucke out all the corruption, and then fill the holes

full of fresh Butter, and it will cure them. And

thus much for the Nature of the

Cocke, and how to keepe him

for his best vse in the

Pleasures of

Princes.

F I N I S.

Alex^r Wherry

Bethel January 10th 1761

2 TIME

